

B. GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 17500-17617

GC §17500: Legislative Findings and Declarations

The Legislature finds and declares that the existing system for reimbursing local agencies and school districts for the costs of state-mandated local programs has not provided for the effective determination of the state's responsibilities under Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. The Legislature finds and declares that the failure of the existing process to adequately and consistently resolve the complex legal questions involved in the determination of state-mandated costs has led to an increasing reliance by local agencies and school districts on the judiciary and, therefore, in order to relieve unnecessary congestion of the judicial system, it is necessary to create a mechanism which is capable of rendering sound quasi-judicial decisions and providing an effective means of resolving disputes over the existence of state-mandated local programs. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this part to provide for the implementation of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. Further, the Legislature intends that the Commission on State Mandates, as a quasi-judicial body, will act in a deliberative manner in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

GC §17510: Construction of Part

Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions contained in this chapter govern the construction of this part. The definition of a word applies to any variants thereof and the singular tense of a word includes the plural.

GC §17511: "City"

"City" means any city whether general law or charter, except a city and county.

GC §17512: "Commission"

"Commission" means the Commission on State Mandates.

GC §17513: "Cost Mandated by the Federal Government"

"Costs mandated by the federal government" means any increased costs incurred by a local agency or school district after January 1, 1973, in order to comply with the requirements of a federal statute or regulation. "Costs mandated by the federal government" includes costs resulting from enactment of a state law or regulation where failure to enact that law or regulation to meet specific federal program or service requirements imposed upon the state would result in substantial monetary penalties or loss of funds to public or private persons in the state whether the federal law was enacted before or after the enactment of the state law, regulation, or executive order. "Costs mandated by the federal government" does not include costs which are specifically reimbursed or funded by the federal or state government or programs or services which may be implemented at the option of the state, local agency, or school district.

GC §17514: "Costs Mandated by the State"

"Costs mandated by the state" means any increased costs which a local agency or school district is required to incur after July 1, 1980, as a result of any statute enacted on or after January 1, 1975, or any executive order implementing any statute enacted on or after January 1, 1975, which mandates a new program or higher level of service of an existing program within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

GC §17515: "County"

"County" means any chartered or general law county. "County" includes a city and county.

GC §17516: "Executive Order"

"Executive order" means any order, plan, requirement, rule, or regulation issued by any of the following: (a) The Governor. (b) Any officer or official serving at the pleasure of the Governor. (c) Any agency, department, board, or commission of state government. "Executive order" does not include any order, plan, requirement, rule, or regulation issued by the State Water Resources Control Board or by any regional water quality control board pursuant to Division 7 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Water Code. It is the intent of the Legislature that the State Water Resources Control Board and regional water quality control boards will not adopt enforcement orders against publicly owned dischargers which mandate major waste water treatment facility construction costs unless federal financial assistance and state financial assistance pursuant to the Clean Water Bond Act of 1970 and 1974, is simultaneously made available. "Major" means either a new treatment facility or an addition to an existing facility, the cost of which is in excess of 20 percent of the cost of replacing the facility.

GC §17517.5: "Cost Savings authorized by the state"

"Cost savings authorized by the state" means any decreased costs that a local agency or school district realizes as a result of any statute enacted or any executive order adopted that permits or requires the discontinuance of or a reduction in the level of service of an existing program that was mandated before January 1, 1975.

GC §17518: "Local Agency"

"Local agency" means any city, county, special district, authority, or other political subdivision of the state.

GC §17518.5: "Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology"

(a) "Reasonable reimbursement methodology" means a formula for reimbursing local agencies and school districts for costs mandated by the state, as defined in Section 17514. (b) A reasonable reimbursement methodology shall be based on cost information from a representative sample of eligible claimants, information provided by associations of local agencies and school districts, or other projections of local costs. (c) A reasonable reimbursement methodology shall consider the variation in costs among local agencies and school districts to implement the mandate in a cost-efficient manner. (d) Whenever possible, a reasonable reimbursement methodology shall be based on general allocation formulas, uniform cost allowances, and other approximations of local costs mandated by the state, rather than detailed documentation of actual local costs. In cases when local agencies and school districts are projected to incur costs to implement a mandate over a period of more than one fiscal year, the determination of a reasonable reimbursement methodology may consider local costs and state reimbursements over a period of greater than one fiscal year, but not exceeding 10 years. (e) A reasonable reimbursement methodology may be developed by any of the following: (1) The Department of Finance. (2) The Controller. (3) An affected state agency. (4) A claimant. (5) An interested party.

GC §17519: "School District"

"School district" means any school district, community college district, or county superintendent of schools.

GC §17520: "Special District"

"Special district" means any agency of the state that performs governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries. "Special district" includes a county service area, a maintenance district or area, an improvement district or improvement zone, or any other zone or area. "Special district" does not include a city, a county, a school district, or a community college district. County free libraries established pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 27151) of Division 20 of the Education Code, areas receiving county fire protection services pursuant to Section 25643 of the Government Code, and county road districts established pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 1550) of Division 2 of the Streets and Highways Code shall be considered "special districts" for all purposes of this part.

GC §17521: "Test Claim"

"Test claim" means the first claim filed with the commission alleging that a particular statute or executive order imposes costs mandated by the state, and includes a claim filed pursuant to Section 17574.

GC §17521.5: "Legislatively Determined Mandate"

"Legislatively determined mandate" means the provisions of a statute or executive order that the Legislature, pursuant to Article 1.5, has declared by statute to be a mandate for which reimbursement is required by Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

GC §17522: Definitions

(a) "Initial reimbursement claim" means a claim filed with the Controller by a local agency or school district for costs to be reimbursed for the fiscal years specified in the first claiming instructions issued by the Controller pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 17558. (b) "Annual reimbursement claim" means a claim for actual costs incurred in a prior fiscal year filed with the Controller by a local agency or school district for which appropriations are made to the Controller for this purpose. (c) "Estimated reimbursement claim" means a claim filed with the Controller by a local agency or school district in conjunction with an initial reimbursement claim, annual reimbursement claim, or at other times, for estimated costs to be reimbursed during the current or future fiscal years, for which appropriations are made to the Controller for this purpose. (d) "Entitlement claim" means a claim filed by a local agency or school district with the Controller for the purpose of establishing or adjusting a base year entitlement. All entitlement claims are subject to Section 17616.

GC §17523: "Deflator"

"Deflator" means the Implicit Price Deflator for the Costs of Goods and Services to Governmental Agencies, as determined by the Department of Finance.

GC §17524: "Base Year Entitlement"

"Base year entitlement" means that amount determined to be the average for the approved reimbursement claims of each local agency or school district for the three preceding fiscal years adjusted by the change in the deflator. A base year entitlement shall not include any nonrecurring or initial startup costs incurred by a local agency or school district in any of those three fiscal years. For those mandates which become operative on January 1 of any year, the amount of the "approved reimbursement claim" for the first of the three years may be computed by annualizing the amount claimed for the six-month period of January through June in that first year, excluding nonrecurring or startup costs.

GC §17525: Members: Term and Per Diem for Specified Members

(a) There is hereby created the Commission on State Mandates, which shall consist of seven members as follows: (1) The Controller. (2) The Treasurer. (3) The Director of Finance. (4) The Director of the Office of Planning and Research. (5) A public member with experience in public finance, appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. (6) Two members from the following three categories appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate, provided that no more than one member shall come from the same category: (A) A city council member. (B) A member of a county or city and county board of supervisors. (C) A governing board member of a school district as defined in Section 17519. (b) Each member appointed pursuant to paragraph (5) or (6) of subdivision (a) shall be subject to both of the following: (1) The member shall serve for a term of four years subject to renewal. (2) The member shall receive per diem of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each day actually spent in the discharge of official duties and shall be reimbursed for any actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the performance of duties as a member of the commission.

GC §17526: Commission Meetings

(a) All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public, except that the commission may meet in executive session to consider the appointment or dismissal of officers or employees of the commission or to hear complaints or charges brought against a member, officer, or employee of the commission. (b) The commission shall meet at least once every two months. (c) The time and place of meetings may be set by resolution of the commission, by written petition of a majority of the members, or by written call of the chairperson. The chairperson may, for good cause, change the starting time or place, reschedule, or cancel any meeting.

GC §17527: Powers of Commission

In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the commission shall have the following powers: (a) To examine any document, report, or data, including computer programs and data files, held by any local agency or school district. (b) To meet at times and places as it may deem proper. (c) As a body or, on the authorization of the commission, as a committee composed of one or more members, to hold hearings at any time and place it may deem proper. (d) Upon a majority vote of the commission, to issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, papers, accounts, reports, and documents. (e) To administer oaths. (f) To contract with other agencies or individuals, public or private, as it deems necessary, to provide or prepare services, facilities, studies, and reports to the commission as will assist it in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. (g) To adopt, promulgate, amend, and rescind rules and regulations, which shall not be subject to the review and approval of the Office of Administrative Law pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act provided for in Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2. (h) To do any and all other actions necessary or convenient to enable it fully and adequately to perform its duties and to exercise the powers expressly granted to it.

GC §17528: Election of Officers

The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson of the commission.

GC §17529: Appointment of Attorney: Duties

The commission may appoint as attorney to the commission an attorney at law of this state, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the commission. The attorney shall represent and appear for the commission in all actions and proceedings involving any question under this part or under any order or act of the commission. The attorney shall advise the commission and each member of the commission, when so requested, in regard to all matters in connection with the powers and duties of the commission and the members thereof. The attorney shall generally perform all duties and services as attorney to the commission which the commission may require.

GC §17530: Appointment of Executive Director: Duties

The commission shall appoint an executive director, who shall be exempt from civil service and shall hold office at the pleasure of the commission. The executive director shall be responsible for the executive and administrative duties of the commission and shall organize, coordinate, supervise, and direct the operations and affairs of the commission and expedite all matters within the jurisdiction of the commission. The executive director shall keep a full and true record of all proceedings of the commission, issue all necessary process, writs, warrants, and notices, and perform other duties as the commission prescribes.

GC §17531: Authority of Executive Director to Employ Necessary Staff

The executive director may employ those officers, examiners, experts, statisticians, accountants, inspectors, clerks, and employees as the executive director deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this part or to perform the duties and exercise the powers conferred upon the commission by law.

GC §17532: Quorum: Investigations, Inquiries, and Hearing

A majority of the commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, for the performance of any duty, or for the exercise of any power of the commission. Any investigation, inquiry, or hearing which the commission has power to undertake or to hold may be undertaken or held by or before any commissioner or commissioners designated for the purpose by the commission. The evidence in any investigation, inquiry, or hearing may be taken by the commissioner or commissioners to whom the investigation, inquiry, or hearing has been assigned or, in his or her or their behalf, by an examiner designated for that purpose. Every finding, opinion, and order made by the commissioner or commissioners so designated, pursuant to the investigation, inquiry, or hearing, when approved or confirmed by the commission and ordered filed in its office, shall be deemed to be the finding, opinion, and order of the commission.

GC §17533: Provisions not Applicable to Hearing by Commission

Notwithstanding Section 11425.10, Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400) of Part 1 of Division 3 does not apply to a hearing by the commission under this part.

GC §17550: Reimbursements of Local Agencies and Special Districts

Reimbursement of local agencies and school districts for costs mandated by the state shall be provided pursuant to this chapter.

GC §17551: Commission Hearing and Decision Upon Claims

(a) The commission, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, shall hear and decide upon a claim by a local agency or school district that the local agency or school district is entitled to be reimbursed by the state for costs mandated by the state as required by Section 6 of Article XIIB of the California Constitution. (b) Except as provided in Sections 17573 and 17574, commission review of claims may be had pursuant to subdivision (a) only if the test claim is filed within the time limits specified in this section. (c) Local agency and school district test claims shall be filed not later than 12 months following the effective date of a statute or executive order, or within 12 months of incurring increased costs as a result of a statute or executive order, whichever is later. (d) The commission, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, shall hear and decide upon a claim by a local agency or school district filed on or after January 1, 1985, that the Controller has incorrectly reduced payments to the local agency or school district pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 17561.

GC §17552: Exclusivity of Procedure by Chapter

This chapter shall provide the sole and exclusive procedure by which a local agency or school district may claim reimbursement for costs mandated by the state as required by Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

GC §17553: Adoption of Procedure for Receiving Claims and Providing Hearings: Postponement of Hearings

(a) The commission shall adopt procedures for receiving claims filed pursuant to this article and Section 17574 for providing a hearing on those claims. The procedures shall do all of the following: (1) Provide for presentation of evidence by the claimant, the Department of Finance and any other affected department or agency, and any other interested person. (2) Ensure that a statewide cost estimate is adopted within 12 months after receipt of a test claim, when a determination is made by the commission that a mandate exists. This deadline may be extended for up to six months upon the request of either the claimant or the commission. (3) Permit the hearing of a claim to be postponed at the request of the claimant, without prejudice, until the next scheduled hearing. (b) All test claims shall be filed on a form prescribed by the commission and shall contain at least the following elements and documents: (1) A written narrative that identifies the specific sections of statutes or executive orders and the effective date and register number of regulations alleged to contain a mandate and shall include all of the following: (A) A detailed description of the new activities and costs that arise from the mandate. (B) A detailed description of existing activities and costs that are modified by the mandate. (C) The actual increased costs incurred by the claimant during the fiscal year for which the claim was filed to implement the alleged mandate. (D) The actual or estimated annual costs that will be incurred by the claimant to implement the alleged mandate during the fiscal year immediately following the fiscal year for which the claim was filed. (E) A statewide cost estimate of increased costs that all local agencies or school districts will incur to implement the alleged mandate during the fiscal year immediately following the fiscal year for which the claim was filed. (F) Identification of all of the following: (i) Dedicated state funds appropriated for this program. (ii) Dedicated federal funds appropriated for this program. (iii) Other non-local agency funds dedicated for this program. (iv) The local agency's general purpose funds for this program. (v) Fee authority to offset the costs of this program. (G) Identification of prior mandate determinations made by the Commission on State Mandates or a predecessor agency that may be related to the alleged mandate. (H) Identification of a legislatively determined mandate pursuant to Section 17573 that is on the same statute or executive order. (2) The written narrative shall be supported with declarations under penalty of perjury, based on the declarant's personal knowledge, information or belief, and signed by persons who are authorized and competent to do so, as follows: (A) Declarations of actual or estimated increased costs that will be incurred by the claimant to implement the alleged mandate. (B) Declarations identifying all local, state, or federal funds, or fee authority that may be used to offset the increased costs that will be incurred by the claimant to implement the alleged mandate, including direct and indirect costs. (C) Declarations describing new activities performed to implement specified provisions of the new statute or executive order alleged to impose a reimbursable state-mandated program. Specific references shall be made to chapters, articles, sections, or page numbers alleged to impose a reimbursable state-mandated program. (D) If applicable, declarations describing the period of reimbursement and payments received for full reimbursement of costs for a legislatively determined mandate pursuant to Section 17573, and the authority to file a test claim pursuant to paragraph (1) of Section 17574. (3) (A) The written narrative shall be supported with copies of all of the following: (i) The test claim statute that includes the bill number or executive order, alleged to impose or impact a mandate. (ii) Relevant portions of state constitutional provisions, federal statutes, and executive orders that may impact the alleged mandate. (iii) Administrative decisions and court decisions cited in the narrative. (B) State mandate determinations made by the Commission on State Mandates or a predecessor agency and published court decisions on state mandate determinations made by the Commission on State Mandates are exempt from this requirement. (4) A test claim shall be signed at the end of the document, under penalty of perjury by the claimant or its authorized representative, with the declaration that the test claim is true and complete to the best of the declarant's personal knowledge or information or belief. The date of signing, the declarant's title, address, telephone number, facsimile machine telephone number, and electronic mail address shall be included.

(c) If a completed test claim is not received by the commission within 30 calendar days from the date that an incomplete test claim was returned by the commission, the original test claim filing date may be disallowed, and a new test claim may be accepted on the same statute or executive order. (d) In addition, the commission shall determine whether an incorrect reduction claim is complete within 10 days after the date that the incorrect reduction claim is filed. If the commission determines that an incorrect reduction claim is not complete, the commission shall notify the local agency and school district that filed the claim stating the reasons that the claim is not complete. The local agency or school district shall have 30 days to complete the claim. The commission shall serve a copy of the complete incorrect reduction claim on the Controller. The Controller shall have no more than 90 days after the date the claim is delivered or mailed to file any rebuttal to an incorrect reduction claim. The failure of the Controller to file a rebuttal to an incorrect reduction claim shall not serve to delay the consideration of the claim by the commission.

GC §17554: Commission's Authority to Expedite Claim

With the agreement of all parties to the claim, the commission may waive the application of any procedural requirement imposed by this chapter or pursuant to Section 17553. The authority granted by this section includes the consolidation of claims and the shortening of time periods.

GC §17555: Date for Public Hearing: Test Claim Form and Procedure

(a) No later than 30 days after hearing and deciding upon a test claim pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 17551, and determining the amount to be subvended to local agencies and school districts for reimbursement pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 17557, the commission shall notify the appropriate Senate and Assembly policy and fiscal committees, the Legislative Analyst, the Department of Finance, and the Controller of that decision. (b) For purposes of this section, the "appropriate policy committee" means the policy committee that has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the statute, regulation, or executive order, and bills relating to that subject matter would have been heard.

GC §17556: Criteria for not Finding Costs Mandated by the State

The commission shall not find costs mandated by the state, as defined in Section 17514, in any claim submitted by a local agency or school district, if, after a hearing, the commission finds any one of the following: (a) The claim is submitted by a local agency or school district that requested legislative authority for that local agency or school district to implement the program specified in the statute, and that statute imposes costs upon that local agency or school district requesting the legislative authority. A resolution from the governing body or a letter from a delegated representative of the governing body of a local agency or school district that requests authorization for that local agency or school district to implement a given program shall constitute a request within the meaning of this subdivision. (b) The statute or executive order affirmed for the state a mandate that had been declared existing law or regulation by action of the courts. (c) The statute or executive order imposes a requirement that is mandated by a federal law or regulation and results in costs mandated by the federal government, unless the statute or executive order mandates costs that exceed the mandate in that federal law or regulation. This subdivision applies regardless of whether the federal law or regulation was enacted or adopted prior to or after the date on which the state statute or executive order was enacted or issued. (d) The local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the mandated program or increased level of service. (e) The statute, executive order, or an appropriation in a Budget Act or other bill provides for offsetting savings to local agencies or school districts that result in no net costs to the local agencies or school districts, or includes additional revenue that was specifically intended to fund the costs of the state mandate in an amount sufficient to fund the cost of the state mandate. (f) The statute or executive order imposes duties that are necessary to implement, reasonably within the scope of, or expressly included in, a ballot measure approved by the votes in a statewide or local election. This subdivision applies regardless of whether the statute or executive order was enacted or adopted before or after the date on which the ballot measure was approved by the voters. (g) The statute created a new crime or infraction, eliminated a

crime or infraction, or changed the penalty for a crime or infraction, but only for that portion of the statute relating directly to the enforcement of the crime or infraction.

GC §17557: Determination of Amount to be Subvened for Reimbursement: Parameters and Guidelines

(a) If the commission determines there are costs mandated by the state pursuant to Section 17551, it shall determine the amount to be subvened to local agencies and school districts for reimbursement. In so doing it shall adopt parameters and guidelines for reimbursement of any claims relating to the statute or executive order. The successful test claimants shall submit proposed parameters and guidelines within 30 days of adoption of a statement of decision on a test claim. At the request of a successful test claimant, the commission may provide for one or more extensions of this 30-day period at any time prior to its adoption of the parameters and guidelines. If proposed parameters and guidelines are not submitted within the 30-day period and the commission has not granted an extension, then the commission shall notify the test claimant that the amount of reimbursement the test claimant is entitled to for the first 12 months of incurred costs will be reduced by 20 percent, unless the test claimant can demonstrate to the commission why an extension of the 30-day period is justified. (b) In adopting parameters and guidelines, the commission may adopt a reasonable reimbursement methodology. (c) The parameters and guidelines adopted by the commission shall specify the fiscal years for which local agencies and school districts shall be reimbursed for costs incurred. However, the commission may not specify in the parameters and guidelines any fiscal year for which payment could be provided in the annual Budget Act. (d) A local agency, school district, or the state may file a written request with the commission to amend, modify, or supplement the parameters or guidelines. The commission may, after public notice and hearing, amend, modify, or supplement the parameters and guidelines. A parameters and guidelines amendment submitted within 90 days of the claiming deadline for initial claims, as specified in the claiming instructions pursuant to Section 17561, shall apply to all years eligible for reimbursement as defined in the original parameters and guidelines. A parameters and guidelines amendment filed more than 90 days after the claiming deadline for initial claims, as specified in the claiming instructions pursuant to Section 17561, and on or before the claiming deadline following a fiscal year, shall establish reimbursement eligibility for that fiscal year. (e) A test claim shall be submitted on or before June 30 following a fiscal year in order to establish eligibility for reimbursement for that fiscal year. The claimant may thereafter amend the test claim at any time, but before the test claim is set for a hearing, without affecting the original filing date as long as the amendment substantially relates to the original test claim. (f) In adopting parameters and guidelines, the commission shall consult with the Department of Finance, the affected state agency, the Controller, the fiscal and policy committees of the Assembly and Senate, the Legislative Analyst, and the claimants to consider a reasonable reimbursement methodology that balances accuracy with simplicity.

GC §17557.1: Statement of Decision on Test Claim

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part within 30 days of the commission's adoption of a statement of decision on a test claim, the test claimant and the Department of Finance may notify the executive director of the commission in writing of their intent to follow the process described in this section to develop a reasonable reimbursement methodology and statewide estimate of costs for the initial claiming period and budget year for reimbursement of costs mandated by the state in accordance with the statement of decision. The letter of intent shall include the date on which the test claimant and the Department of Finance will submit a plan to ensure that costs from a representative sample of eligible local agency or school district claimants are considered in the development of a reasonable reimbursement methodology. (b) This plan shall also include all of the following information: (1) The date on which the test claimant and Department of Finance will provide to the executive director an informational update regarding their progress in developing the reasonable reimbursement methodology. (2) The date on which the test claimant and Department of Finance will submit to the executive director the draft reasonable reimbursement methodology and proposed statewide estimate of costs for the initial claiming period and budget year. This date shall be no later than 180 days after the date the letter of intent is sent by the test claimant and Department of Finance to the executive

director. (c) At the request of the test claimant and Department of Finance, the executive director may provide for up to four extensions of this 180-day period. (d) The test claimant or Department of Finance may notify the executive director at any time that the claimant or Department of Finance no longer intends to develop a reasonable reimbursement methodology pursuant to this section. In this case, paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 17553 and Section 17557 shall apply to the test claim. Upon receipt of this notification, the executive director shall notify the test claimant of the duty to submit proposed parameters and guidelines within 30 days under subdivision (a) of Section 17557.

GC §17557.2: Broad Support Required; Joint Proposal Prior to Commission Hearing

(a) A reasonable reimbursement methodology developed pursuant to Section 17557.1 or a joint request for early termination of a reasonable reimbursement methodology shall have broad support from a wide range of local agencies or school districts. The test claimant and Department of Finance may demonstrate broad support from a wide range of local agencies or school districts in different ways including, but not limited to, obtaining endorsement by one or more statewide associations of local agencies or school districts and securing letters of approval from local agencies or school districts. (b) No later than 60 days before a commission hearing, the test claimant and Department of Finance shall submit to the commission joint proposal that shall include all of the following: (1) The draft reasonable reimbursement methodology. (2) The proposed statewide estimate of costs for the initial claiming period and budget year. (3) A description of the steps the test claimant and the Department of Finance undertook to determine the level of support by local agencies or school districts for the draft reasonable reimbursement methodology. (4) An agreement that the reasonable reimbursement methodology developed and approved under this section shall be in effect for a period of five years unless a different term is approved by the commission, or upon submission to the commission of a letter indicating the Department of Finance and test claimant's joint interest in early termination of the reasonable reimbursement methodology. (5) An agreement that, at the conclusion of the period established in paragraph (4), the Department of Finance and the test claimant will consider jointly whether amendments to the methodology are necessary. (c) The commission shall approve the draft reasonable reimbursement methodology if review of the information submitted pursuant to Section 17557.1 and subdivision (b) of this section demonstrates that the draft reasonable reimbursement methodology and statewide estimate of costs for the initial claiming period and budget year have been developed in accordance with Section 17557.1 and meet the requirements of subdivision (a). The commission thereafter shall adopt the proposed statewide estimate of costs for the initial claiming period and budget year. Statewide cost estimates adopted under this section shall be included in the report to the Legislature required under Section 17600 and shall be reported by the commission to the appropriate Senate and Assembly policy and fiscal committees, the Legislative Analyst, and the Department of Finance not later than 30 days after adoption. (d) Unless amendments are proposed pursuant to this subdivision, the reasonable reimbursement methodology approved by the commission pursuant to this section shall expire after either five years, any other term approved by the commission, or upon submission to the commission of a letter indicating the Department of Finance's and test claimant's joint interest in early termination of the reasonable reimbursement methodology. (e) The commission shall approved a joint request for early termination of a reasonable reimbursement methodology if the request meets the requirements of subdivision (a). If the commission approves a joint request for early termination, the commission shall notify the test claimant of the duty to submit proposed parameters and guidelines to the commission pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 17557. (f) At least one year before the expiration of a reasonable reimbursement methodology, the commission shall notify the Department of Finance and the test claimant that they may do one of the following: (1) Jointly propose amendments to the reasonable reimbursement methodology by submitting the information described in paragraphs (1), (3), and (4) of subdivision (b), and providing an estimate of the mandate's annual cost for the subsequent budget year. (2) Jointly propose that the reasonable reimbursement methodology remain in effect. (3) Allow the reasonable reimbursement methodology to expire and notify the commission that the test claimant will submit proposed parameters and guidelines to the commission pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 17557 to replace the reasonable reimbursement methodology. (g) The commission shall either approve the continuation of the reasonable reimbursement methodology or approve the jointly proposed amendments to the reasonable reimbursement methodology if the

information submitted in accordance with paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) demonstrates that the proposed amendments were developed in accordance with Section 17557.1 and meet the requirements of subdivision (a) of this section.

GC §17558: Submission of Parameters and Guidelines to Controller: Transfer of Claims; Claiming Instructions

(a) The commission shall submit the adopted parameters and guidelines or a reasonable reimbursement methodology approved pursuant to Section 17557.2 to the Controller. As used in this chapter, a "reasonable reimbursement methodology" approved pursuant to Section 17557.2 includes all amendments to the reasonable reimbursement methodology. When the Legislature declares a legislatively determined mandate in accordance with Section 17573 in which claiming instructions are necessary, the Department of Finance shall notify the Controller. (b) Not later than 60 days after receiving the adopted parameters and guidelines, a reasonable reimbursement methodology from the commission, or notification from the Department of Finance, the Controller shall issue claiming instructions for each mandate that requires state reimbursement, to assist local agencies and school districts in claiming costs to be reimbursed. In preparing claiming instructions, the Controller shall request assistance from the Department of Finance and may request the assistance of other state agencies. The claiming instructions shall be derived from the test claim decision and the adopted parameters and guidelines, reasonable reimbursement methodology, or statute declaring a legislatively determined mandate. (c) The Controller shall, within 60 days after receiving adopted parameters and guidelines, an amended reasonable reimbursement methodology from the commission or other information necessitating a revision of the claiming instructions, prepare and issue revised claiming instructions for mandates that require state reimbursement that have been established by commission action pursuant to Section 17557, Section 17557.2 or after any decision or order of the commission pursuant to Section 17557.2, or after any action by the Legislature pursuant to Section 17573. In preparing revised claiming instructions, the Controller may request the assistance of other state agencies.

GC §17558.5: Reimbursement Claim: Audit; Remittance Advice and Other Notices of Payment

(a) A reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a local agency or school district pursuant to this chapter is subject to the initiation of an audit by the Controller no later than three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim is filed or last amended, whichever is later. However, if no funds are appropriated or no payment is made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim is filed, the time for the Controller to initiate an audit shall commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim. In any case, an audit shall be completed not later than two years after the date that the audit is commenced. (b) The Controller may conduct a field review of any claim after the claim has been submitted, prior to the reimbursement of the claim. (c) The Controller shall notify the claimant in writing within 30 days after issuance of a remittance advice of any adjustment to a claim for reimbursement that results from an audit or review. The notification shall specify the claim components adjusted, the amounts adjusted, interest charges on claims adjusted to reduce the overall reimbursement to the local agency or school district, and the reason for the adjustment. Remittance advices and other notices of payment action shall not constitute notice of adjustment from an audit or review. (d) The interest rate charged by the Controller on reduced claims shall be set at the Pooled Money Investment Account rate and shall be imposed on the dollar amount of the overpaid claim from the time the claim was paid until overpayment is satisfied. (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the adjustment of payments when inaccuracies are determined to be the result of the intent to defraud, or when a delay in the completion of an audit is the result of willful acts by the claimant or inability to reach agreement on terms of final settlement.

GC §17558.6: Legislative Intent

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Commission on State Mandates review its process by which local agencies may appeal the reduction of reimbursement claims on the basis that the reduction is incorrect in order to provide for a more expeditious and less costly process.

GC §17559: Judicial Review

(a) The commission may order a reconsideration of all or part of a test claim or incorrect reduction claim on petition of any party. The power to order a reconsideration or amend a test claim decision shall expire 30 days after the statement of decision is delivered or mailed to the claimant. If additional time is needed to evaluate a petition for reconsideration filed prior to the expiration of the 30-day period, the commission may grant a stay of that expiration for no more than 30 days, solely for the purpose of considering the petition. If no action is taken on a petition within the time allowed for ordering reconsideration, the petition shall be deemed denied. (b) A claimant or the state may commence a proceeding in accordance with the provisions of Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure to set aside a decision of the commission on the ground that the commission's decision is not supported by substantial evidence. The court may order the commission to hold another hearing regarding the claim and may direct the commission on what basis the claim is to receive a rehearing.

GC §17560: Deadlines for Filing Reimbursement Claims

Reimbursement for state-mandated costs may be claimed as follows: (a) A local agency or school district may, by February 15 following the fiscal year in which costs are incurred, file an annual reimbursement claim that details the costs actually incurred for that fiscal year. (b) In the event revised claiming instructions are issued by the Controller pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 17558 between November 15 and February 15, a local agency or school district filing an annual reimbursement claim shall have 120 days following the issuance date of the revised claiming instructions to file a claim.

GC §17561: Reimbursement of Costs for State Mandated Programs

(a) The state shall reimburse each local agency and school district for all "costs mandated by the state," as defined in Section 17514 and for legislatively determined mandates in accordance with Section 17573. (b) (1) For the initial fiscal year during which these costs are incurred, reimbursement funds shall be provided as follows: (A) Any statute mandating these costs shall provide an appropriation therefor. (B) Any executive order mandating these costs shall be accompanied by a bill appropriating the funds therefor, or alternatively, an appropriation for these costs shall be included in the Budget Bill for the next succeeding fiscal year. The executive order shall cite that item of appropriation in the Budget Bill or that appropriation in any other bill that is intended to serve as the source from which the Controller may pay the claims of local agencies and school districts. (2) In subsequent fiscal years appropriations for these costs shall be included in the annual Governor's Budget and in the accompanying Budget Bill. In addition, appropriations to reimburse local agencies and school districts for continuing costs resulting from chaptered bills or executive orders for which claims have been awarded pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 17551 shall be included in the annual Governor's Budget and in the accompanying Budget Bill. (c) The amount appropriated to reimburse local agencies and school districts for costs mandated by the state shall be appropriated to the Controller for disbursement. (d) The Controller shall pay any eligible claim pursuant to this section by August 15 or 45 days after the date of the appropriation for the claim is effective, whichever is later. The Controller shall disburse reimbursement funds to local agencies or school districts if the costs of these mandates are not payable to state agencies, or to state agencies that would otherwise collect the costs of these mandates from local agencies or school districts in the form of fees, premiums, or payments. When disbursing reimbursement funds to local agencies or school districts, the Controller shall disburse them as follows: (1) For initial reimbursement claims, the Controller shall issue claiming instructions to the relevant local agencies and school districts pursuant to Section 17558. Issuance of the claiming instructions shall constitute a notice of the right of the local agencies and school districts to file reimbursement claims, based upon parameters and guidelines adopted by the commission, the

reasonable reimbursement methodology approved by the commission pursuant to Section 17557.2, or statutory declaration of a legislative determined and reimbursement methodology pursuant to Section 17573. (A) When claiming instructions are issued by the Controller pursuant to Section 17558 for each mandate determined pursuant to Section 17551 or 17573 that requires state reimbursement, each local agency or school district to which the mandate is applicable shall submit claims for initial fiscal year costs to the Controller within 120 days of the issuance date for the claiming instructions. (B) When the commission is requested to review the claiming instructions pursuant to Section 17571, each local agency or school district to which the mandate is applicable shall submit a claim for reimbursement within 120 days after the commission reviews the claiming instructions for reimbursement issued by the Controller. (C) If the local agency or school district does not submit a claim for reimbursement within the 120-day period, or submits a claim pursuant to revised claiming instructions, it may submit its claim for reimbursement as specified in Section 17560. The Controller shall pay these claims from the funds appropriated therefor, provided that the Controller (i) may audit the records of any local agency or school district to verify the actual amount of the mandated costs, the application of a reasonable reimbursement methodology, or application of a legislatively enacted reimbursement methodology under Section 17573, and (ii) may reduce any claim that the Controller determines is excessive or unreasonable. (2) In subsequent fiscal years each local agency or school district shall submit its claims as specified in Section 17560. The Controller shall pay these claims from funds appropriated therefor, provided that the Controller (A) may audit (i) the records of any local agency or school district to verify the actual amount of the mandated costs, (ii) the application of a reasonable reimbursement methodology, or (iii) application of a legislatively enacted reimbursement methodology under Section 17573.(B) may reduce any claim that the Controller determines is excessive or unreasonable, and (C) shall adjust the payment to correct for any underpayments or overpayments which occurred in previous fiscal years. (3) When paying a timely filed claim for initial reimbursement, the Controller shall withhold 20 percent of the amount of the claim until the claim is audited to verify the actual amount of the mandated costs. All initial reimbursement claims for all fiscal years required to be filed on their initial filing date for a state-mandated local program shall be considered as one claim for the purpose of computing any late claim penalty. Any claim for initial reimbursement filed after the filing deadline shall be reduced by 10 percent of the amount that would have been allowed had the claim been timely filed. The Controller may withhold payment of any late claim for initial reimbursement until the next deadline for funded claims unless sufficient funds are available to pay the claim after all timely filed claims have been paid. In no case may a reimbursement claim be paid if submitted more than one year after the filing deadline specified in the Controller's claiming instructions on funded mandates . (e) (1) Except as specified in paragraph (2), for the purposes of determining the state's payment obligation under paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the Constitution, a mandate that is "determined in a preceding fiscal year to be payable by the state" means any mandate for which the commission adopted a statewide cost estimate pursuant to this part during a previous fiscal year or that were identified as mandates by a predecessor agency to the commission, or that the Legislature declared by statute to be a legislatively determined mandate, unless the mandate has been repealed or otherwise eliminated. (2) If the commission adopts a statewide cost estimate for a mandate during the months of April, May, or June, the state's payment obligation under subdivision (b) of Section 6 of Article XIII B shall commence one year after the time specified in paragraph (1).

GC §17561.5: Payment of Claim with Interest

The payment of an initial reimbursement claim by the Controller shall include accrued interest at the Pooled Money Investment Account rate, if the payment is being made more than 365 days after adoption of the statewide cost estimate for an initial claim or, in the case of payment of a subsequent claim relating to that same statute or executive order, if payment is being made more than 60 days after the filing deadline for, or the actual date of receipt of, the subsequent claim, whichever is later. In those instances, interest shall begin to accrue as of the 366th day after adoption of the statewide cost estimate for an initial claim and as of the 61st day after the filing deadline for, or actual date of receipt of, the subsequent claim, whichever is later.

GC §17561.6: Payment

A budget act item or appropriation pursuant to this part for reimbursement of claims shall include an amount necessary to reimburse any interest due pursuant to Section 17561.5.

GC §17562: Review of Costs of State-Mandated Local Programs

(a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the increasing revenue constraints on state and local government and the increasing costs of financing state-mandated local programs make evaluation of state-mandated local programs imperative. Accordingly, it is the intent of the Legislature to increase information regarding state mandates and establish a method for regularly reviewing the costs and benefits of state-mandated local programs. (b) The Controller shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and fiscal committees by October 31 of each fiscal year beginning with the 2007-08 fiscal year. This report shall summarize, by state mandate, the total amount of claims paid per fiscal year and the amount, if any, of mandate deficiencies or surpluses. This report shall be made available in an electronic spreadsheet format. The report shall compare the annual cost of each mandate. In the preceding fiscal year to the amount determined to be payable by the state for that fiscal year. (2) The Controller shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the applicable fiscal committees, and the Director of Finance by April 30 of each fiscal year. This report shall summarize, by state mandate, the total amount of unpaid claims by fiscal year that were submitted before April 1 of that fiscal year. The report shall also summarize any mandate deficiencies or surpluses. It shall be made available in an electronic spreadsheet, and shall be used for the purpose of determining the state's payment obligation under paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution. (c) After the commission submits its second semiannual report to the Legislature pursuant to Section 17600, the Legislative Analyst shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and legislative fiscal committees on the mandates included in the commission's reports. The report shall make recommendations as to whether the mandate should be repealed, funded, suspended, or modified. (d) In its annual analysis of the Budget Bill and based on information provided pursuant to subdivision (b), the Legislative Analyst shall report total annual state costs for mandated programs and, as appropriate, provide an analysis of specific mandates and make recommendations on whether the mandate should be repealed, funded, suspended, or modified. (e) (1) A statewide association of local agencies or school districts or a Member of the Legislature may submit a proposal to the Legislature recommending the elimination or modification of a state-mandated local program. To make such a proposal, the association or member shall submit a letter to the Chairs of the Assembly Committee on Education or the Assembly Committee on Local Government, as the case may be, and the Senate Committee on Education or the Senate Committee on Local Government, as the case may be, specifying the mandate and the concerns and recommendations regarding the mandate. The association or member shall include in the proposal all information relevant to the conclusions. If the chairs of the committees desire additional analysis of the submitted proposal, the chairs may refer the proposal to the Legislative Analyst for review and comment. The chairs of the committees may refer up to a total of 10 of these proposals to the Legislative Analyst for review in any year. Referrals shall be submitted to the Legislative Analyst by December 1 of each year. (2) The Legislative Analyst shall review and report to the Legislature with regard to each proposal that is referred to the office pursuant to paragraph (1). The Legislative Analyst shall recommend that the Legislature adopt, reject, or modify the proposal. The report and recommendations shall be submitted annually to the Legislature by March 1 of the year subsequent to the year in which referrals are submitted to the Legislative Analyst. (3) The Department of Finance shall review all statutes enacted each year that contain provisions making inoperative Section 17561 or Section 17565 that have resulted in costs or revenue losses mandated by the state that were not identified when the statute was enacted. The review shall identify the costs or revenue losses involved in complying with the statutes. The Department of Finance shall also review all statutes enacted each year that may result in cost savings authorized by the state. The Department of Finance shall submit an annual report of the review required by this subdivision, together with the recommendations as it may deem appropriate, by December 1 of each year. (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Assembly Committee on Local Government and the Senate Committee on Local Government hold a joint hearing each year regarding the following: (1) The reports and recommendations submitted pursuant to subdivision (e). (2) The reports submitted pursuant to Sections

17570, 17600, and 17601. (3) Legislation to continue, eliminate, or modify any provision of law reviewed pursuant to this subdivision. The legislation may be by subject area or by year or years of enactment.

GC §17563: Use of Funds Received for Public Purpose

Any funds received by a local agency or school district pursuant to the provisions of this chapter may be used for any public purpose.

GC §17564: Filing of Claims: Threshold Amount

(a) No claim shall be made pursuant to Sections 17551, 17561, or 17573, nor shall any payment be made on claims submitted pursuant to Sections 17551 or 17561, or pursuant to a legislative determination under Section 17573, unless these claims exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), provided that a county superintendent of schools or county may submit a combined claim on behalf of school districts, direct service districts, or special districts within their county if the combined claim exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1,000) even if the individual school district's, direct service district's, or special district's claims do not each exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The county superintendent of schools or the county shall determine if the submission of the combined claim is economically feasible and shall be responsible for disbursing the funds to each school, direct service, or special district. These combined claims may be filed only when the county superintendent of schools or the county is the fiscal agent for the districts. All subsequent claims based upon the same mandate shall only be filed in the combined form unless a school district, direct service district, or special district provides to the county superintendent of schools or county and to the Controller, at least 180 days prior to the deadline for filing the claim, a written notice of its intent to file a separate claim. (b) Claims for direct and indirect costs filed pursuant to Section 17561 shall be filed in the manner prescribed in the parameters and guidelines or reasonable reimbursement methodology and claiming instructions. (c) Claims for direct and indirect costs filed pursuant to a legislatively determined mandate pursuant to Section 17573 shall be filed and paid in the manner prescribed in the Budget Act or other bill, or claiming instructions, if applicable.

GC §17565: Reimbursement of Subsequently Mandated Costs

If a local agency or a school district, at its option, has been incurring costs which are subsequently mandated by the state, the state shall reimburse the local agency or school district for those costs incurred after the operative date of the mandate.

GC §17567: Insufficiency of Appropriation: Proration of Claims

In the event that the amount appropriated for reimbursement purposes pursuant to Section 17561 is not sufficient to pay all of the claims approved by the Controller, the Controller shall prorate claims in proportion to the dollar amount of approved claims timely filed and on hand at the time of proration. The Controller shall adjust prorated claims if supplementary funds are appropriated for this purpose. In the event that the Controller finds it necessary to prorate claims as provided by this section, the Controller shall immediately report this action to the Department of Finance, the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and the Chairperson of the respective committee in each house of the Legislature which considers appropriations in order to assure appropriation of these funds in the Budget Act.

GC §17568: Payment of Claims Submitted After Deadline

If a local agency or school district submits an otherwise valid reimbursement claim to the Controller after the deadline specified in Section 17560, the Controller shall reduce the reimbursement claim in an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount which would have been allowed had the reimbursement claim been timely filed, provided that the amount of this reduction shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). In no case shall a reimbursement claim be paid which is submitted more than one year after

the deadline specified in Section 17560. Estimated claims which were filed by the deadline specified in that section shall be paid in full before payments are made on estimated claims filed after the deadline. In the event the amount appropriated to the Controller for reimbursement purposes is not sufficient to pay the estimated claims approved by the Controller, the Controller shall prorate those claims in proportion to the dollar amount of approved claims filed after the deadline and shall report to the commission or the Legislature in the same manner as described in Section 17566 in order to assure appropriation of funds sufficient to pay those claims.

GC §17570: Annual Report to Legislature

The Legislative Analyst shall review each unfunded statutory or regulatory mandate for which claims have been approved by the Legislature pursuant to a claims bill during the preceding fiscal year. Any recommendations by the Legislative Analyst to eliminate or modify the mandates shall be contained in the annual analysis of the Budget Bill prepared by the Legislative Analyst.

GC §17571: Review and Modification of Claiming Instructions

The commission, upon request of a local agency or school district, shall review the claiming instructions issued by the Controller or any other authorized state agency for reimbursement of mandated costs. If the commission determines that the claiming instructions do not conform to the parameters and guidelines, the commission shall direct the Controller to modify the claiming instructions and the Controller shall modify the claiming instructions to conform to the parameters and guidelines as directed by the commission.

GC §17575: Review of Bills

When a bill is introduced in the Legislature, and each time a bill is amended, on and after January 1, 1985, the Legislative Counsel shall determine whether the bill mandates a new program or higher level of service pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. The Legislative Counsel shall make this determination known in the digest of the bill and shall describe in the digest the basis for this determination. The determination by the Legislative Counsel shall not be binding on the commission in making its determination pursuant to Section 17555.

GC §17576: Determination of Bills by the Legislative Counsel

Whenever the Legislative Counsel determines that a bill will mandate a new program or higher level of service pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution, the Department of Finance shall prepare an estimate of the amount of reimbursement which will be required. This estimate shall be prepared for the respective committees of each house of the Legislature which consider taxation measures and appropriation measures and shall be prepared prior to any hearing on the bill by any such committee.

GC §17577: Amount of Estimates

The estimate required by Section 17576 shall be the amount estimated to be required during the first fiscal year of a bill's operation in order to reimburse local agencies and school districts for costs mandated by the state by the bill.

GC §17578: Amendment of Bills on Floor: Notification by Legislative Counsel

In the event that a bill is amended on the floor of either house, whether by adoption of the report of a conference committee or otherwise, in such a manner as to mandate a new program or higher level of service pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution, the Legislative Counsel shall immediately inform, respectively, the Speaker of the Assembly and the President of the Senate of that fact. Notification from the Legislative Counsel shall be published in the journal of the respective houses of the Legislature.

GC §17579: Requirement for New Mandates to Specify Reimbursement Requirements: Appropriations

Any bill introduced or amended for which the Legislative Counsel has determined the bill will mandate a new program or higher level of service pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution shall contain a section specifying that reimbursement shall be made pursuant to this chapter or that the mandate is being disclaimed and the reason therefor.

GC §17581: Conditions for Exemption from Implementation of Statute or Executive Order

(a) No local agency shall be required to implement or give effect to any statute or executive order, or portion thereof, during any fiscal year and for the period immediately following that fiscal year for which the Budget Act has not been enacted for the subsequent fiscal year if all of the following apply: (1) The statute or executive order, or portion thereof, has been determined by the Legislature, the commission, or any court to mandate a new program or higher level of service requiring reimbursement of local agencies pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. (2) The statute or executive order, or portion thereof, has been specifically identified by the Legislature in the Budget Act for the fiscal year as being one for which reimbursement is not provided for that fiscal year. For purposes of this paragraph, a mandate shall be considered to have been specifically identified by the Legislature only if it has been included within the schedule of reimbursable mandates shown in the Budget Act and it is specifically identified in the language of a provision of the item providing the appropriation for mandate reimbursements. (b) Within 30 days after enactment of the Budget Act, the Department of Finance shall notify local agencies of any statute or executive order, or portion thereof, for which operation of the mandate is suspended because reimbursement is not provided for that fiscal year pursuant to this section and Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a local agency elects to implement or give effect to a statute or executive order described in subdivision (a), the local agency may assess fees to persons or entities which benefit from the statute or executive order. Any fee assessed pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed the costs reasonably borne by the local agency. (c) This section shall not apply to any state-mandated local program for the trial courts, as specified in Section 77203. (d) This section shall not apply to any state-mandated local program for which the reimbursement funding counts toward the minimum General Fund requirements of Section 8 of Article XVI of the Constitution.

GC §17581.5 Exemption from Provisions of School Bus Safety II Mandate and School Crimes Reporting II Mandate

(a) A school district may not be required to implement or give effect to the statutes, or portion thereof, identified in subdivision (b) during any fiscal year and for the period immediately following that fiscal year for which the Budget Act has not been enacted for the subsequent fiscal year if all of the following apply: (1) The statute or portion thereof, has been determined by the Legislature, the commission, or any court to mandate a new program or higher level of service requiring reimbursement of school districts pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. (2) The statute, or portion thereof, has been specifically identified by the Legislature in the Budget Act for the fiscal year as being one for which reimbursement is not provided for that fiscal year. For purposes of this paragraph, a mandate shall be considered to have been specifically identified by the Legislature only if it has been included within the schedule of reimbursable mandates shown in the Budget Act and it is specifically identified in the language of a provision of the item providing the appropriation for mandate reimbursements. (b) This section applies only to the following mandates: (1) The School Bus Safety I (CSM-4433) and II (97-TC-22) mandates (Chapter 642 of the Statutes of 1992; Chapter 831 of the Statutes of 1994; and Chapter 739 of the Statutes of 1997). (2) The School Crimes Reporting II mandate (97-TC-03; and Chapter 759 of the Statutes of 1992 and Chapter 410 of the Statutes of 1995). (3) Investment reports (96-358-02; and Chapter 783 of the Statutes of 1995 and Chapters 156 and 749 of the Statutes of 1996). (4) County treasury oversight committees (96-365-03; and Chapter 784 of the Statutes of 1995 and Chapter 156 of the Statutes of 1996).

GC §17600: Report on Number of Mandates and Their Costs

At least twice each calendar year the commission shall report to the Legislature on the number of mandates it has found pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 17550) and the estimated statewide costs of these mandates. This report shall identify the statewide costs estimated for each mandate and the reasons for recommending reimbursement.

GC §17601: Report on Claims Denied

The commission shall report to the Legislature on January 15, 1986, and each January 15 thereafter, on the number of claims it denied during the preceding calendar year and the basis on which the particular claims were denied.

GC §17612: Local Government Claims Bills: Judicial Review of Funding Deletions

(a) Upon receipt of the report submitted by the commission pursuant to Section 17600, funding shall be provided in the subsequent Budget Act for costs incurred in prior years. No funding shall be provided for years in which a mandate is suspended. (b) The Legislature may amend, modify, or supplement the parameters and guidelines for mandates contained in the local government claims bill. If the Legislature amends, modifies, or supplements the parameters and guidelines, reasonable reimbursement methodology, and adopted statewide estimate of costs for the initial claiming period and budget year for mandates contained in the annual Budget Act. If the Legislature amends, modifies, or supplements the parameters and guidelines, reasonable reimbursement methodology, and adopted statewide estimate of costs for the initial claiming period and budget year, it shall make a declaration in a separate legislation specifying the basis for the amendment, modification, or supplement. (c) If the Legislature deletes from a local government claims bill funding for a mandate, the local agency or school district may file in the Superior Court of the County of Sacramento an action in declaratory relief to declare the mandate unenforceable and enjoin its enforcement.

GC §17613: Authorization of Augmentation for Mandated Costs

(a) The Director of Finance may, upon receipt of any report submitted pursuant to Section 17567, authorize the augmentation of the amount available for expenditure to reimburse costs mandated by the state, as defined in Section 17514, as follows: (1) For augmentation of (A) any schedule in any item to reimburse costs mandated by the state in any budget act, or (B) the amount appropriated in a local government claims bill for reimbursement of the claims of local agencies, as defined by Section 17518, from the unencumbered balance of any other item to reimburse costs mandated by the state in that budget act or another budget act or in an appropriation for reimbursement of the claims of local agencies in another local government claims bill. (2) For augmentation of (A) any schedule in any budget act item, or (B) any amount appropriated in a local government claims bill, when either of these augmentations is for reimbursement of mandated claims of school districts, as defined in Section 17519, when the source of this augmentation is (A) the unencumbered balance of any other scheduled amount in that budget act or another budget act, or (B) an appropriation in another local government claims bill, when either of these appropriations is for reimbursement of mandate claims of school districts. This paragraph applies only to appropriations that are made for the purpose of meeting the minimum funding guarantee for educational programs pursuant to Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution. (b) No authorization for an augmentation pursuant to this section may be made sooner than 30 days after the notification in writing of the necessity therefor to the chairperson of the committee in each house which considers appropriations and the chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, or not sooner than whatever lesser time as the chairperson of the joint committee, or his or her designee, may in each instance determine.

GC §17615: Legislative Findings and Intent

The Legislature finds and declares that the existing system for reimbursing local agencies and school districts for actual costs mandated by the state on an annual claim basis is time consuming,

cumbersome, and expensive at both the local and state levels. The Controller must process voluminous claims with all claims subject to a desk audit and selected claims also subject to a field audit. Local agencies are required to maintain extensive documentation of all claims in anticipation of such an audit. The volume of these records is substantial and will continue to grow with no relief in sight as new programs are mandated. The cost to local agencies and school districts for filing claims, and for maintaining documentation and responding to the Controller's audits is substantial. The current administrative cost to both state and local governments represents a significant expenditure of public funds with no apparent benefit to the taxpayers. It is the intent of the Legislature to streamline the reimbursement process for costs mandated by the state by creating a system of state mandate apportionments to fund the costs of certain programs mandated by the state.

GC §17615.1: Review of Programs for Inclusion in System

The commission shall establish a procedure for reviewing, upon request, mandated cost programs for which appropriations have been made by the Legislature for the 1982-83, 1983-84, and 1984-85 fiscal years, or any three consecutive fiscal years thereafter. At the request of the Department of Finance, the Controller, or any local agency or school district receiving reimbursement for the mandated program, the commission shall review the mandated cost program to determine whether the program should be included in the State Mandates Apportionment System. If the commission determines that the State Mandates Apportionment System would accurately reflect the costs of the state-mandated program, the commission shall direct the Controller to include the program in the State Mandates Apportionment System.

GC §17615.2: Calculation of Disbursement Amounts

(a) Notwithstanding Section 17561, after November 30, 1985, for those programs included in the State Mandates Apportionment System, after approval by the commission, there shall be disbursed by the Controller to each local agency and school district which has submitted a reimbursement claim for costs mandated by the state in the 1982-83, 1983-84, and the 1984-85 fiscal years, or any three consecutive fiscal years thereafter, an amount computed by averaging the approved reimbursement claims for this three-year period. The amount shall first be adjusted according to any changes in the deflator. The deflator shall be applied separately to each year's costs for the three years which comprise the base period. Funds for these purposes shall be available to the extent they are provided for in the Budget Act of 1985 and the Budget Act for any subsequent fiscal year thereafter. For purposes of this article, "base period" means the three fiscal years immediately succeeding the commission's approval. (b) When the Controller has made payment on claims prior to commission approval of the program for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System, the payment shall be adjusted in the next apportionment to the amount which would have been subvented to the local agency or school district for that fiscal year had the State Mandates Apportionment System been in effect at the time of the initial payment.

GC §17615.3: Annual Recalculation of Allocation

Notwithstanding Section 17561, by November 30, 1986, and by November 30 of each year thereafter, for those programs included in the State Mandates Apportionment System, the Controller shall recalculate each allocation for each local agency and school district for the 1985-86 fiscal year, by using the actual change in the deflator for that year. That recalculated allocation shall then be adjusted by the estimated change in the deflator for the 1986 -87 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, to establish the allocation amount for the 1986-87 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter. Additionally, for programs approved by the commission for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System on or after January 1, 1988, the allocation for each year succeeding the three-year base period shall be adjusted according to any changes in both the deflator and workload. The Controller shall then subvene that amount after adjusting it by any amount of overpayment or underpayment in the 1985-86 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, due to a discrepancy between the actual change and the estimated change in the deflator or workload. Funds for these purposes shall be available to the extent they are provided for in the Budget Act of 1986 and the Budget Act for any subsequent fiscal year thereafter. For purposes of this article, "workload" means, for school districts and county offices of

education, changes in the average daily attendance; for community colleges, changes in the number of full-time equivalent students; for cities and counties, changes in the population within their boundaries; and for special districts, changes in the population of the county in which the largest percentage of the district's population is located.

GC §17615.4: Procedure for Newly Mandated Program

(a) When a new mandate imposes costs that are funded either by legislation or in local government claims bills, local agencies and school districts may file reimbursement claims as required by Section 17561, for a minimum of three years after the initial funding of the new mandate. (b) After actual cost claims are submitted for three fiscal years against such a new mandate, the commission shall determine, upon request of the Controller or a local entity or school district receiving reimbursement for the program, whether the amount of the base year entitlement adjusted by changes in the deflator and workload accurately reflects the costs incurred by the local agency or school district. If the commission determines that the base year entitlement, as adjusted, does accurately reflect the costs of the program, the commission shall direct the Controller to include the program in the State Mandates Apportionment System. (c) The Controller shall make recommendations to the commission and the commission shall consider the Controller's recommendations for each new mandate submitted for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System. All claims included in the State Mandates Apportionment System pursuant to this section are also subject to the audit provisions of Section 17616.

GC §17615.5: Procedure Where No Base Year Entitlement Has Been Established

(a) If any local agency or school district has an established base year entitlement which does not include costs for a particular mandate, that local agency or school district may submit reimbursement claims for a minimum of three consecutive years, adjusted pursuant to Section 17615.3 by changes in the deflator and workload, or entitlement claims covering a minimum of three consecutive years, after which time its base year entitlement may be adjusted by an amount necessary to fund the costs of that mandate. (b) If any local agency or school district has no base year entitlement, but wishes to begin claiming costs of one or more of the mandates included in the State Mandates Apportionment System, that local agency or school district may submit reimbursement claims for a minimum of three consecutive years, or entitlement claims covering the preceding three consecutive years, which shall be adjusted pursuant to Sections 17615.2 and 17615.3 by changes in the deflator and workload, after which time a base year entitlement may be established in an amount necessary to fund the costs of the mandate or mandates.

GC §17615.6: Procedure Where Program is No Longer Mandatory

If a local agency or school district realizes a decrease in the amount of costs incurred because a mandate is discontinued, or made permissive, the Controller shall determine the amount of the entitlement attributable to that mandate by determining the base year amount for that mandate for the local agency or school district plus the annual adjustments. This amount shall be subtracted from the annual subvention which would otherwise have been allocated to the local agency or school district.

GC §17615.7: Procedure Where Program is Modified

If a mandated program included in the State Mandates Apportionment System is modified or amended by the Legislature or by executive order, and the modification or amendment significantly affects the costs of the program, as determined by the commission, the program shall be removed from the State Mandate Apportionment System, and the payments reduced accordingly. Local entities or school districts may submit actual costs claims for a period of three years, after which the program may be considered for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17615.4.

GC §17615.8: Review of Base Year Entitlement

(a) The commission shall establish a procedure for reviewing, upon request, any apportionment or base year entitlement of a local agency or school district. (b) Local agencies and school districts which request such a review shall maintain and provide those records and documentation as the commission or its designee determines are necessary for the commission or its designee to make the required determinations. With the exception of records required to verify base year entitlements, the records may not be used to adjust current or prior apportionments, but may be used to adjust future apportionments. (c) If the commission determines that an apportionment or base year entitlement for funding costs mandated by the state does not accurately reflect the costs incurred by the local agency or school district for all mandates upon which that apportionment is based, the commission shall direct the Controller to adjust the apportionment accordingly. For the purposes of this section, an apportionment or a base year entitlement does not accurately reflect the costs incurred by a local agency or school district if it falls short of reimbursing, or overreimburses, that local agency's or school district's actual costs by 20 percent or by one thousand dollars (\$1,000), whichever is less. (d) If the commission determines that an apportionment or base year entitlement for funding costs mandated by the state accurately reflects the costs incurred by the local agency or school district for all mandates upon which that apportionment is based, the commission may, in its discretion, direct the Controller to withhold, and, if so directed, the Controller shall withhold the costs of the commission's review from the next apportionment to the local agency or school district, if the commission review was requested by the local agency or school district.

GC §17615.9: Review of Programs Under SMAS

The commission shall periodically review programs funded under the State Mandate Apportionments System to evaluate the effectiveness or continued statewide need for each such mandate.

GC §17616: Audits and Verification by Controller

The Controller shall have the authority to do either or both of the following: (a) Audit the fiscal years comprising the base year entitlement no later than three years after the year in which the base year entitlement is established. The results of such audits shall be used to adjust the base year entitlements and any subsequent apportionments based on that entitlement, in addition to adjusting actual cost payments made for the base years audited. (b) Verify that any local agency or school district receiving funds pursuant to this article is providing the reimbursed activities.

GC §17617: Local Agency Payment

The total amount due to each city, county, city and county, and special district, for which the state has determined, as of June 30, 2005, that reimbursement is required under Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution, shall be appropriated for payment to these entities over a period of not more than five years, commencing with the Budget Act for the 2006-07 fiscal year and concluding with the Budget Act for the 2011-12 fiscal year.